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MR. WARREN presented to the Society, on behalf of William Durrant Cooper, F.S.A., of London, a Corresponding Member, "The History of Winchelsea, one of the Ancient Towns added to the *Cinque Ports* ;" and a small volume, "printed for private circulation," entitled "Seven Letters written by Sterne and his Friends, hitherto unpublished," — the first-named book written, and the latter edited, by Mr. Cooper.

A paper was communicated and read by Dr. JENKS, which he entitled "Notice of the Sieur D'Aulnay, of Acadie, from the French ;" which was referred to the Publishing Committee, and is printed in vol. iv., Fourth Series, of the Society's Collections.

NOVEMBER MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, at noon, in the Dowse Library. In the absence of the President, Hon. DAVID SEARS, one of the Vice-Presidents, was called to preside.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters of acceptance from MONS. ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE ; Rev. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D.D. ; Dr. E. B. O'CALLAGHAN ; and BENJAMIN F. FRENCH, Esq.

The Librarian announced donations from the City of Boston ; L. A. H. Latour, Esq. ; William Durrant Cooper, F.S.A. ; Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan ; Mons. F. P. G. Guizot ; B. F. French, Esq. ; and from Mr. Winthrop, of the Society.

The Recording Secretary presented the following communication from Mr. John Bachelder, giving an account of his exploration for the purpose of ascertaining the situation of a trading-house erected by the Plymouth settlers on the banks of the Manomet River, to facilitate their commercial intercourse with the Dutch, as early as 1627:—

MONUMENT, Oct. 27, 1857.

DEAR SIR,— The attention of the Natural-History Society has recently been invited to a locality of considerable interest in *civil* history, by the presentation of a *brick* found on the site where the Plymouth settlers erected a dwelling and storehouse on the banks of Manomet River, in 1627. Possibly the learned members of the Massachusetts Historical Society will be pleased to learn some facts about this locality which are not generally known.

It is situated about a hundred yards from the south bank of the river, and half a mile below the bridge, near the Monument Depot, in the town of Sandwich, Mass. It is indicated by two depressions, about fifteen feet apart and three feet deep. There are a few stones and bricks (most of them fragments) scattered around, nearly all of the latter imperfect in form, and partially glazed, appearing as if composed of sand and *dark mud*, and (before burning) too soft to retain their form. These bricks are already beginning to grow scarce; and it is fortunate that the Natural-History Society has secured a good specimen. Since my acquaintance with the locality (fourteen years), they never have been very numerous. The stones were probably all used about the building; for such stones are not found in the immediate vicinity, the soil being little else than alluvial sand. One smooth-faced stone might have been used as a stepping-stone.

Five years ago, myself and an accomplice exhumed the eastern wall of the western pit. It was built of small, flat stones,

with natural faces, neatly laid in shell-lime cement, which still preserves considerable cohesion. Near the northern corner, there is a little cuddy cut through the wall and in the bank behind, lined all around with the same material, and in the same neat, workmanlike manner. In this cuddy we found bones (entire and fragmentary) of sufficient variety to constitute a respectable osteological cabinet of a comparative anatomist. Here were found bones of deer, various species of sea-fowl and of fish, — all of which (animals) are still found in this vicinity. Some of the bones, or fragments, appeared to have belonged to other mammals beside the deer. The bones of the poggy (it is universally called scup, or scupaug, in this region) were *very* numerous, not only in the cuddy, but everywhere mingled with the soil disturbed in our explorations. Many entire skeletons of this fish were found, the bones all *in situ*, except such as contained an excess of cartilage: these had disappeared. In one specimen, every vestige of the fish had disappeared, leaving nothing but an outline of its form, which, however, was perfect (except the fractures which we unintentionally made in exposing it), as if prepared for a cast. It was too fragile for preservation. There were also found, in this miniature sepulchre, small bits of pottery and glass. One piece of glass was of considerable size and thickness. It appeared to be a piece of a gallon or two-gallon demijohn. It was probably, however, not designed to be incased in wicker-work, after the fashion of modern demijohns; for it was colored blue, and appeared to contain some traces of superficial ornamental coloring or gilding. The appearance of this little receptacle indicated that it had been used at different times as a cellar-pantry, a scullery, and perhaps a repository of choice wines. There were abundant indications of defective culinary economy and taste, at least when tested by modern standards. Bones, shells (some of the latter were of very large dimensions), broken bricks, and pieces of mortar, constituted a considerable part of the rubbish in the cellar. The most notable

relics we found were two fragments, — the one, of a knife-blade, about two inches in length and half an inch in breadth, resembling a broken shoe-knife blade ; the other, of a hoe, which must have been of ample dimensions and weight. This may be seen in Pilgrim Hall, at Plymouth. The length of the cellar-wall was about eighteen feet.

In the rear of this spot, close to the brink of the river at half-tide, an excellent spring of water issues from the sand-bank. A semicircular excavation is still plainly perceptible a few feet higher up the bank. A few months since, a part of the framework erected around the spring to prevent the flowing in of sand was found *in situ*. This relic was found several feet nearer the brink of the river than it should be (as one might infer at the first sight) ; but a little reflection will remove the apparent discrepancy between the excavated portion of the bank and the *situs* of the well, as indicated by the position of a portion of the curb-frame. The bank here is not only subject to the action of the ordinary meteorologic agencies ; but the action of tide-water in the time of spring-tides, which cause a gradual recession of the bank, at the same time enlarging the circumference of its excavations, not tending at all to obliterate them. Hence we find, in this case, that the bank has retreated, and the excavation exaggerated, and the curb buried in the detritus of the bank, and preserved by the saline quality of the soil. The frame, when discovered, consisted of four pieces of pine (*Pinus rigida*), hewn to the diameter of about four inches square, in the form of a square : their ends appeared to have been fastened together with spikes.

In cultivating the field near the cellar-pits, glass beads have been found.

This locality must have been the centre of considerable business during a part or the whole of its occupancy : for the short piece of road leading towards it is still very plain, and deeply worn ; while, probably, much the greater portion of the

merchandise was transported in shallops to a point much higher up the river.

I have lately heard that there is a tradition extant among some of the descendants of the first settlers of this place, that there were two distinct and separate buildings, — one erected over each cellar-pit, — the eastern used for storage : the western, which was built very strong, was a block-house, and the ordinary dwelling-place of the two resident commercial agents. The relative position and dimensions of the cellar-pits corroborate this tradition. The eastern cellar is about twelve feet square ; the western, about eighteen feet by nine, one of its long sides facing the eastern pit. There can hardly be a good reason given for constructing an oblong cellar, with a greater amount of labor and expense in proportion to the space obtained, except on the supposition that the building erected over it was of a form and dimensions corresponding. The position was also favorable for defending the other building in the event of an assault. The distance between the two (fifteen feet) was sufficient to protect either one from conflagration, under ordinary circumstances and with ordinary vigilance, in case a like fate had befallen the other.

These buildings must have fallen to decay before the first permanent settlement of this place, which took place as early as 1685 : for there is no trace of a tradition or circumstantial evidence that the early settlers made any use of them, or recognized their existence ; but there is much evidence that they never were used for any purpose whatever after the settlement commenced, or after their abandonment as a commercial depot. Although the field containing this relic was a part of the possession of the early settlers, they erected their first dwelling-house and a block-house about half a mile distant. This locality is easily identified. The first settlers were Mr. Ezra Perry and his four sons (the latter were all advanced to near or quite man's estate). These, one after another, built houses, the localities of which are all well known, and the

occupants of each specified with certainty ; but not one of these localities is very near the one described.

The site of Aptuxet (the old trading-house) had become entirely unknown, and had probably remained so for many years. If the first settlers were fully acquainted with the objects and purposes of these buildings (if they were in existence), all trace of such knowledge has disappeared, except a confused idea that they were used for storage, and for defence against the Indians. Upon the most careful inquiry among the oldest and the most intelligent descendants of the early settlers, I could get no intelligible account of the time *when* these buildings were constructed, or *by whom*, or whether they were *public* or *private* property, or whether *trade* was conducted through them. The idea seems to have been, as far as I can infer, that a settlement was undertaken by some person or persons at some period long before the final settlement, and that these buildings were the result. Knowing that the Plymouth Trading-House must have been established somewhere in this vicinity, and having received some documents from the ancient records, through the aid of William S. Russell, Esq., of Plymouth, who was searching for the same object, I was enabled to identify the site beyond a doubt. This discovery was made in 1850, a brief account of which may be found in Russell's "Pilgrim Memorials."

It is gratifying to see an occasional visitor turning his footsteps to this venerated spot. As it becomes more generally known, a greater number will doubtless find pleasure in looking upon a scene hallowed by such intimate associations with the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock.

Most respectfully yours, JOHN BACHELDER.

Mr. ROBBINS presented several manuscripts, among which was a letter from Benjamin Franklin to Count de Vergennes, — a donation from C. Campbell, Esq., of Petersburg, Va.

Mr. SAVAGE exhibited to the Society a bill of exchange, probably the first which was drawn on England from this country. It was in the following terms: —

“Sonne John, I pray paye unto the Bearer Mr, Robt, W, Parke, or his assign the Sum of forty one Shillings, wh I owe unto him, & so rest, yr loving Father, Jo. Winthrop. Charles-town in N. Eng. Sept 9, 1630.

“Paid this bill, Jan 28: to Mr Robt Parke.”

Mr. SEARS offered a few remarks, describing, in general terms, the contents of a sealed box which he had some time since placed in the custody of the Society, with a label on the cover designating the time at which it should be opened.

After the usual business had been transacted, Mr. SAVAGE called the attention of the Society to a recent article in the “Historical Magazine,” vol. i. No. 11, citing a remark of his in vol. viii., Third Series, of the Society’s Collections. The remark, said Mr. Savage, was the latter part of a sentence, and filled exactly one line; and the writer, who uses the signature of “HUTCHINSON,” considers, not unjustly, this remark an accusation of Thomas Welde, as the author of a certain book.

Mr. Savage gave, at some length, his reasons for the opinion and judgment which he had expressed in the Collections, and in his second edition of Winthrop’s History, concerning the connection of Welde with the publication of the book in question, — “Short Story of the Rise, Reign, and Ruin of Antinomianism.”

It would be improper, as Mr. Savage himself sug-

gested, that a vindication of the remark alluded to should appear on the pages of the Society's publications, which are not intended for receptacles of controversy.

In conclusion, Mr. Savage said, that, one year and a half ago, he had taken up the whole matter now brought forward by "HUTCHINSON," and inserted comments, at great length, in the notice of Welde which he designed for his "Genealogical Dictionary," now nearly ready for the press. These comments were read to two or three gentlemen of this Society in May, 1856; and also to another, not one of our associates. If they did not prove the disingenuousness of Welde, he had lost the power of drawing a fair inference, as would appear when his book should come forth.

DECEMBER MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 10, at noon, in the Society's Library; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from General J. W. de Peyster; Rev. Edwin M. Stone; L. A. Huguet-Latour, Esq.; Hon. Theron Metcalf; Lucius Boltwood, Esq.; James Lenox, Esq.; Mrs. John H. Kinzie; J. Francis Fisher; Winthrop Sargent, Esq.; and from Messrs. Appleton and Sibley, of the Society.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, the President read a letter from General J. W. de Peyster, accompanying a donation of books to the Library.